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Multiple Switch

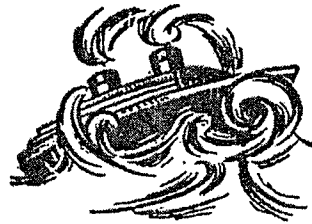
Father was reading his newspaper at the breakfast table and on the front page there was an account of a great storm that had taken place at sea a day or so before. The huge liner, the *Queen Elizabeth*, had been caught in the storm. The waves had been so gigantic that they had risen as high as the ship and had gone down the funnel. The newspaper had a big headline about this. It read :

QUEEN ELIZABETH IN GREAT STORM
GIANT WAVES DOWN FUNNEL

Little Tommy was sitting at the other side of the table. He looked at the headline, slowly spelling it out.

"Giant—waves—down—
Funnel."

"Daddy," he said, "I think it was rather nice of the giant to wave down the funnel!"



The key phrase in the above short story, Giant waves under funnel, contains a double switch. The word *giant* switches from being an adjective in one interpretation to being a noun in the other, while the word *waves* switches from being a noun to being a verb.

In another story taken from the book “Squad Help Dog Bite Man”, a woman came out of a clinic having shed 80 pounds. *One third of her left behind*. Here we have a triple switch. The word *her* switches from being a pronoun to being an adjective, the word *left* switches from being a verb to being an adjective, while the word *behind* switches from being an adverb to being a noun.

Readers are challenged to find or construct other examples of multiple switch involving the eight parts of speech.

